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a newspaper for hope and refusal

# the defenestrator



The defenestrator is Philly's sporadic newspaper for resistance, creative revolution and action. To defenestrate Power means total refusal of its tools and tentacles. Like the Hussites who had their oppressors thrown down from the Prague castle into the angry mob below, the defenestrator wrestles power and privilege from its highest and most protected strongholds and casts the beast out of the window and down into the angry hands of the people.

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# Buy Nothing Day 2006

## The USAntiheroes proclaim another victory for ‘Buy Nothing Day’, Philadelphia, PA

By Ms. Amerika

On Friday, November 23, 2006, the USAntiheroes took their message of joy and peace to the streets of Philadelphia to shout loud and strong, “We won’t buy anything today!” These super anti-heroes began a huge block party today outside of the Gallery Mall in downtown Philadelphia and passers-by could not get enough of it. This beautiful day saw the convergence of over 25 USAntiheroes, including the popular Ms. Amerika, SGT Spend-a-Lot, the wonder twins of “Paper” and “Or Plastic”, the Pogo Avenger, the Jubilee Jester and Junior Jester, as well as the Buy Nothing Day Girls and the “Ad” Team.

Our heroes began by passing out flyers and free hot cocoa and tea to the weary crowd. As the day progressed, people stopped by for a photo op with the Buy Nothing Day Girls to put in their holiday cards this year. The crowd was wowed with the amazing jumping skills of their very own Pogo Avenger as he catapulted himself up and down on the logos of different corporations chalked on the sidewalk. (Shouting, “Pogo the logo! Pogo the logo!”) Looking up, they could gaze in wonderment at the no-shopping prowess of the Jubilee Jester, standing tall at eleven feet of Jubilee Justice-ness. (To say nothing of the Junior Jester, towering around three feet.) Then three unexpected antiheroes showed up with signs for free hugs for all! Soon the masses were shouting and dancing along to the free drumming party that broke out right before the mall security arrived.

Security thought they could intimidate our good friends the USAntiheroes, but they were in over their heads. These are super heroes we’re talking about! (The conversation went a little something like this:

Security: (With 13 of his “forces”) Get off our property!

Ms. Amerika: Absolutely. Um where does your part of the sidewalk end? We’ll move our table further out.

Security: Go to the other side of the street.

Ms. Amerika: Sorry, we can’t do that. But we’ll move off your “Private” part of the sidewalk.

Security: We’re going to call the cops.

Jubilee Jester: That’ll be great. Thanks. They’ll know where we can be legally and that can clear up the confusion.

Security: Just move or I’ll have these



guys move you.

Ms. Amerika: Awesome, sure. Just tell us where your part of the sidewalk ends.

One of the “backup” security: Where the bricks in the sidewalk end.

Ms. Amerika: Three feet over? Fine!

After moving off their “private” parts of the sidewalk, the party continued en masse without signs of stopping. The USAntiheroes stand for Truth, Justice, Beauty, Peace and Love. They don’t talk back and they don’t back down! They invite you all to join them every year for a party like no other; a party to remember that the true spirit of the holiday is to spend time with those you love and to feel good knowing “you haven’t contributed to other people’s oppression”.

from www.usantiheroes.com

# Torture Survivor Center Loses Funding

The Liberty Center for Survivors of Torture is a non-profit organization, part of Lutheran Children and Family Services, which serves over 200 survivors in the Philadelphia area, who come from around the world. Ninety percent of their funding comes from a Federal grant under the Torture Victims Rehabilitation Act. This year, that grant was not renewed. They were given no explanation why. They will not be able to reapply for another three years. Throughout the region, other services for refugees and survivors of torture are losing funding, and as asylum-seekers are generally ineligible for public services and often do not have authorization to work in the US, people who flee to the US, having left behind or lost their families and everything they had, may soon find they have no place to go to seek help. The Liberty Center makes great use of small resources -- \$300 can buy a year’s worth of SEPTA tokens for survivors. If you are interested in donating goods, money, or services, please contact Pamela Barnes, pamelab@lcfsinpa.org.

for more info, check out: <http://www.lcfsinpa.org/suivors-of-torture.asp>

## “Battle of Seattle” Hollywood Flick Filmed in Seattle to Cut Production Costs.

Battle in Seattle a movie about the 1999 protests of the World Trade Organization (WTO), is set to begin filming this month — in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Cost savings were presumably the chief factor in the choice of Vancouver, B.C. over Seattle, but it may be hard for the film to escape the irony of that choice: The protests were basically about multinational corporations unaccountably outsourcing labor.

The film will star Charlize Theron and Woody Harrelson. The film company is recruiting "protester extras" and will provide the gas masks and pickets. <http://www.battleinseattlemovie.com/>

## Building Collective organizes

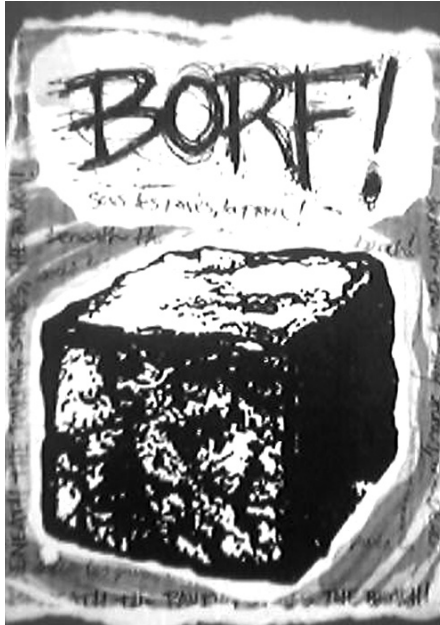
A small group of builders, designers, and thinkers have begun organizing a loose collective to impact the built environment of Philadelphia. The a-frame building collective is committed to doing good work through craftsmanship, training, non-hierarchy, and inclusion, while combating gentrification in our neighborhoods. Look for a-frame training events in basic home repair to appear in the coming months. If you are looking for collective based labor for a building project, or want to find out more, please call the a-frame voicemail service at 215-525-4254.

please call the a-frame  
voicemail service at 215-525-4254.

# Smashy Smashy for Silver Spring Recruiters

With Iraq Vets against the War actions, Counter recruitment demos, Camp Democracy, Plea for Peace and the Uprise tour in town it’s a great month for anti-oil war activities, we figured a little property destruction would be the icing on the cake.

A new autonomous, anonymous cell calling itself the “BORFROBF” (Borf: Revolution or bust faction) understands that the military recruiting industry is a war on the youth; understanding the



## Miller Brewing Co. Workers

## Prepare to Strike

Miller Brewing Company’s workers are preparing to strike as the company is attempting to force them to roll back their health care, pensions, and annual raise.

Till this is over... no scab beer.

Clerical staff and shipping and receiving employees of Miller Brewing Co.-on Tuesday night- “overwhelmingly” authorized a strike if a new labor agreement can’t be reached.

A prior contract expired in April. A series of short-term contract extensions have been enacted since then, the most recent of which expires on Wednesday.

A series of contract proposals, which have included a proposed pension freeze, minimal annual pay raises and increased employee contributions for health care insurance, have been deemed unacceptable by the employees’ bargaining committee.

Miller management and the union met

BORF movement as standing for youth liberation, we see these battles as one in the same. Television, video games and other passive entertainment leave us feeling that the only way we can be heroes or see real action and adventure is to join the military, become a cop (the domestic military) or other agencies for violently enforcing government agenda. As we ran away from the military recruitment center in Silver Spring after showering it with rocks, breaking 2 windows and gluing the locks for the second time that week we felt very much alive; while still boasting no masters. While we understand that given their unlimited budget, this sort of action against the recruiters is strictly symbolic, we see it as a dare to those here in the heart of the imperial beast to step it up. Every dropped call, delayed metro and strange smell is a great start, but what about every glued lock, broken window and slashed tire? In a society that destroys any chance of adventure, the only chance of adventure is to destroy that society.

-Huey B. Lootin’ of the BORFROBF

To see the video communiqué, visit: <http://visualresistance.org/wordpress/2006/08/14/borf-brigade-communiqué/>

*Don't Be(er) a Scab!*

with a federal mediator on Nov. 7 and Nov. 8, but the meetings failed to lead to a new agreement.

LIST OF MILLER OWNED BRANDS:

Miller  
Sharp’s non-alcohol brew  
Red Dog  
Icehouse  
Southpaw Light  
Leinenkugel’s  
Henry Weinhard’s  
Hamm’s  
Olde English  
Magnum Malt  
Liquor  
Mickey’s Malt  
Liquor  
Mickey’s Ice  
Milwaukee’s Best  
Foster’s Lager  
Peroni Nastro Az-zurro  
Pilsner Urquell  
Sheaf Stout  
Sparks  
Steel Reserve  
Steel Six



# Lynne Stewart Sentenced to 28 Months in Prison

New York, New York, US — On October 16, former civil rights lawyer Lynne Stewart who was convicted in 2005 of providing material support to terrorists, was sentenced to 28 months in prison, despite the fact that prosecutors wanted her to serve 30 years. She was found guilty of releasing a statement issued by one of her clients, Omar Abdel-Rahman, a blind sheik sentenced to life in prison for plotting to blow up five New York landmarks and assassinate the Egyptian president. The judge allowed her to remain free while she appeals her conviction and sentence, a process that could take more than a year. The judge stated that while she was a lawyer representing poor, disadvantaged and unpopular clients, “Ms. Stewart performed a public service, not only to her clients, but to the nation.” This, of course, was a factor to the downward departure of her sentence, but one of the major concerns stated by Stewart’s attorney was her long battle with breast cancer.

Her codefendant, Arabic translator Mohamed Yousry, who was convicted of the same charge as Stewart, received a sentence of one year and eight months, which was also far less than prosecutors wanted. Her other codefendant, US postal worker Ahmed Abdel Sattar, who was convicted of conspiracy to kill and kidnap people in a foreign country, received a sentence of 24 years. He had been facing life in prison, but the judge cited his lack of prior convictions and his restrictive prison conditions, as well as the fact that nobody was killed or injured, as the main reasons for the drastic downward departure of his sentence. Abdel Sattar has been in jail since the three’s arrest, which was in April 2002, and his time served will count towards his sentence.

For more info visit: <http://www.lynnestewart.org>

on the front page:



A member of Oaxaca's Popular Assemblies braces for tear gas and Federal Police invasion of Oaxaca City this past October. check out the article on page



defenestrator

prison pages

compiled by Philly Anarchist Black Cross



# Why Does Racism Still Exist ?

Part 1

by Romeo Hardin

When we look at racism, we usually react with emotion and immediately conclude that it’s wrong and ignorant, dismissing it with no further thought. But racism was designed with intelligence, not emotion. If we dismiss it quickly without a critical analysis, we overlook many useful dynamics that can help us end the rule of the oppressor.

First, we must understand that such oppression does not fall from the sky. It starts with attitudes and evolves into systems that are perpetuated by laws, laws many people attack. However, once a law is defeated, it is just replaced by something different.

For example, the 13th Amendment (1865) did not abolish slavery. It modified the practice to include only those who were first “duly convicted.” Immediately after its ratification, many Blacks in the South found themselves “duly convicted” and forced back into legal slavery under a system referred to as the “Prison Lease System.” When Brown v. Board of Education abolished separate but equal standards, the US Federal courts and government left room for local municipalities to regulate school enrollment by district or ward (which remained segregated). Municipal policy also appropriated tax money disproportionately to schools in white districts.

One of my supporters is Jean Bassinger, the legal aide for Iowa Representative Ed Fallen. In January, she told me that she was not willing to concentrate on pressuring the court to follow statutes. But she then said that Fallen would fight to get another law enacted. My reply was frank: if the court refuses to honor the current laws, why would they honor a more liberal one? If they don’t (and they wouldn’t), we’ll be back at square one trying to force the court to honor the laws.

Laws can be defeated, but they will always resurface. The system will continuously produce new laws in order to perpetuate itself, whether with different language or are simply “unwritten laws.” This process will continue for as long as the system exists.

The question of racism’s existence can be answered in part due to the laws - written and unwritten - which preserve it.

Some will always be misguided by the notion that attacking laws will destroy racism. This is not the correct approach, as it has always proven fruitless. I intend to introduce a new approach to ending racial oppression.

Politicians and activists who propose social change in the court room or state house waste time, money, and energy and ultimately do no service to the People. Sometimes the wicked conspire to distract us from making progress by getting us to challenge laws.

This is typical in the prison setting. Inmates are encouraged to file grievances or USC 1983 Complaints to challenge their conditions or incarceration, yet conditions on the inside never change. What actually happens is that so much energy is put into litigation that the needed strength for organized protest and resistance no longer exists. Or even worse, faith in litigation eliminates the will to resist.

4 Some choose to attack the system. These are a more radical

type, leftists who come up with many plans for destroying this system and implementing a new one. Socialism has taken much of Central Asia, South America, Cuba, etc. One revolution after another failed to eliminate privilege and power for the fair-skinned people and poverty for the darker ones. These governments are often more racist than the US empire.

I’d like to emphasize that the country doesn’t have to be ruled by whites to be white supremacist. It merely has to be ruled by white supremacy. These countries provide better education, employment, and quality of life to those who are closer to white in complexion and culture. They also have a “white” domination over politics, the economy, and entertainment. In most cases - like Brazil and the Philippines - whiteness is the standard of beauty.

In essence, the oppressive system is replaced by another form of it through revolution. Even Karl Marx, though he provided excellent ideas for overthrowing world capitalism, was racist and sexist.

Just as laws are modified and eventually resurface due to the system’s perpetual presence, revolutions have only tended to modify the system because attitudes aren’t changed. Communist states haven’t succeeded in ending racism or the oppression of women. We must move closer to the core problems - beliefs and attitudes - if we want to move closer to the solution. We must resist causes, not effects.

The revolutionaries of our age have not been successful in changing racist or generally oppressive attitudes. But one of the greatest threats to tyranny - this applies to believers and non-believers equally - was Jesus. He represented such a threat to the Roman Empire that they had him murdered. This was not because he tried to attack it’s systems or laws. He hit where it hurt, straight to the core problems. He challenged people’s belief in such concepts as the Golden Rules by offering the simple solution that you must do unto others as you want done unto you. Love thy neighbor: what would such a belief or attitude produce?

Well, first they could no longer play us against one another. Blacks vs. Latinos, White vs. Blacks, Asians and Arabs, or the local gang banging phenomenon of black (turf) war with the neighboring black (turf); most of Africa was conquered by arming rival tribes against one another. The William Lynch (Willie Lynch) letters give a chilling depiction of how the Roman divide and conquer strategy was used to institute slavery.

Let he who is with our sin cast the first stone: what would such an attitude produce in a people? How susceptible would they be to occupation or self righteous judgmental dominance of the oppressor?

These are just examples of how Jesus was able to make such an impact without a gun, bomb or legal argument. In fact, he disengaged with the court proceedings. I think that was the brilliance and highlight of the story that, like Nat Turner, he made no legal argument and cited none of the oppressors oppressive laws. It was about law, about what was right. It wasn’t about the system. It was about changing the attitude of the people towards each other by coaching the beliefs they possessed.

Ironically, it was the religious talk that was instrumental in producing a system that made it possible for white Romans to

oppress Hebrew Israelites (people of color). Jesus did a good job because he did not seek to over throw Caesar’s laws or systems. The law and system were only the effects of a bigger cause. When you solve the cause, the root problem, you solve all current and future effects in one systematic shot.

In today’s society the only real threat to the ruler and his racist and sexist system is the minds of the youth, the new beliefs, ideas, and attitudes that leave little or no room for racism, imperialism, capitalism or oppression.

Ideals such as love internationalism - these produce attitudes that are in dissent with the ruling system. The rulers slowly lose options and can only rely on force, on instituting a police state to maintain what’s now becoming obsolete. It is very hard, if not impossible, to keep an open mind to the confines of racism. The new developing mind starts to think outside of the box.

To be continued.

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# Women in Prison: How It Is With Us

An excerpt from her book Assata by Assata Shakur

When we talk it is around the Christmas holidays and she tells me about her bad luck. She tells me that she has spent the last four Christmases in jail and tells me how happy she is to be going home. But i know that she has no where to go and that the only “friends” she has in the world are here in jail. She tells me that the only regret she has about leaving is that she won’t be singing in the choir at Christmas. As i talk to her i wonder if she will be back. I tell her good bye and wish her luck. Six days later, through the prison grapevine, i hear that she is back. Just in time for the Christmas show.



We are at sick call. We are waiting on wooden benches in a beige and orange room to see the doctor. Two young women who look only mildly battered by life sit wearing pastel dresses and pointy-toed state shoes. (Wearing “state” is often a sign that the wearer probably cannot afford to buy sneakers in commissary.) The two are talking about how well they were doing on the street. Eavesdropping, i find out that they both have fine “old men” that love the mess out of them. I find out that their men dress fly and wear some baad clothes and so do they. One has 40 pairs of shoes while the other has 100 skirts. One has 2 suede and 5 leather coats. The other has 7 suedes and 3 leathers. One has 3 mink coats, a silver fox and a leopard. The other has 2 minks, a fox jacket, a floor length fox and a chinchilla. One has 4 diamond rings and the other has 5. One lives in a duplex with a sunken tub and a sunken living room with a water fall. The other describes a mansion with a revolving living room. I’m relieved when my name is called. I had been sitting there feeling very, very sad.

There are no criminals here at Riker’s Island Correctional Institution for Women, (New York), only victims. Most of the women (over 95%) are black and Puerto Rican. Many were abused children. Most have been abused by men and all have been abused by “the system.” There are no big time gangsters here, no premeditated mass murderers, no godmothers. There are no big time dope dealers, no kidnapppers, no Watergate women. There are virtually no women here charged with white collar crimes like embezzling or fraud. Most of the women have drug related cases. Many are charged as accessories to crimes committed by men.

The major crimes that women here are charged with are prostitution, pick-pocketing, shop lifting, robbery and drugs. Women who have prostitution cases or who are doing “fine” time make up a substantial part of the short term population. The women see stealing or hustling as necessary for the survival of themselves or their children because jobs are scarce and welfare is impossible to live on. One thing is clear: amerikan capitalism is in no way threatened by the women in prison on Riker’s Island.

One gets the impression, when first coming to Riker’s Island that the architects conceived of it as a prison modelled after a juvenile center.

In the areas where visitors usually pass there is plenty of glass and plenty of plants and flowers. The cell blocks consist of two long corridors with cells on each side connected by a watch room where the guards are stationed, called a bubble. Each corridor has a day room with a t.v., tables, multi-colored chairs, a stove that doesn’t work and a refrigerator. There’s a utility room with a sink and a washer and dryer that do not work.

Instead of bars the cells have doors which are painted bright, optimistic colors with slim glass observation panels. The doors are controlled electronically by the guards in the bubble. The cells are called rooms by everybody. They are furnished with a cot, a closet, a desk, a chair, a plastic upholstered headboard that opens for storage, a small book case, a mirror, a sink and a toilet. The prison distributes brightly colored bedspreads and throw rugs for a homey effect. There is a school area, a gym, a carpeted auditorium, two inmate cafeterias and outside recreation areas that are used during the summer months only.

The guards have successfully convinced most of the women that Riker’s Island is a country club. They say that it is a playhouse compared to some other prisons (especially male): a statement whose partial veracity is not predicated upon the humanity of correction officials at Riker’s Island, but, rather, by contrast to the unbelievably barbaric conditions of other prisons. Many women are convinced that they are, somehow, “getting over.” Some go so far as to reason that because they are not doing hard time, they aren’t really in prison.

November 2nd was Assata Shakur Liberation Day, marking the anniversary of Assata’s escape from Clinton Correctional Institution for Women of New Jersey on November 2nd 1979.  
www.assatashakur.org / www.handsofassata.org / www.happybirthdayassata.org

# Political Prisoner Maroon Shoatz harrassed further

Russell Maroon Shoatz, a New Afrikan Political Prisoner of War held at SCI Greene in Waynesburg, PA, had all of his belongings except for a television, radio, religious book, and pen and paper removed from his cell by guards on October 30. The items were returned less than a week later following a letter and phone campaign organized by Families and Community United and the Human Rights Coalition.

According to a statement posted to various web sites by supporters, the reason Shoatz’s belongings were confiscated was because they were deemed to be “revolutionary material” and that prison officials believe that political prisoners are “the terrorists of the new millennium”.

The items included reading material, literature, and Shoatz’s medical history.

According to an e-mail distributed by the Philadelphia Anarchist Black Cross, Shoatz’s daughter, Theresa, contacted Captain Grainey at SCI Greene. He told her that he was unsure as to why the action was taken against Shoatz.

After being returned his belongings, Shoatz released a statement that read, in part, “The bottom line is they’re trying to set me up as some kind of Homeland Security terrorist threat. That’s in line with the government saying the next threats to domestic security will come from the prisons. Since that’s basically crap, they need freedom fighters like me to try to use my history of fighting oppression of black people as a way to get in the door. I’m absolutely a freedom fighter, but [there] ain’t no terrorist here!”

Shoatz, a former member of the Black Liberation Army, is serving consecutive life sentences at SCI Greene. The 65-year old is kept in lockdown 23 hours out of every day. If you would like to contact him, his address is: Russell Shoats AF3855 175 Progress Drive Waynesburg, PA 15370

# Information Needed Immediately About CS Anna

Eric McDavid, Lauren Weiner and Zachary Jenson were arrested on January 13, 2006. The arrest was based primarily on the actions of an FBI confidential source (CS) who often went by the name Anna. In the criminal complaint against McDavid, Weiner and Jensen the government stated that the CS was involved in 12 other “anarchist cases”. Eric’s lawyer is preparing for trial and needs as much information as possible about the activities of the CS. "Anna" spent time in Philly both during the Biodemocracy protests as well as during "Pointless Fest" where she successfully entrapped Eric and Ren. If you were around “Anna” or communicating with her and were then arrested please contact Eric McDavid’s lawyer, Mark Reichel. “Anna” was using two different email addresses at the time of the arrest (that we know of): annadavies99 [at] yahoo.com and annaforever9 [at] hotmail.com. Her phone number was: 954-821-2477. Some people might also have known her as Grai Damiani.



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# Encuentro, Mini-Tour, Days of Action: McDonald’s Campaign Escalates

by Marc Rodrigues, Student/Farmworker Alliance

## “¡Ya cayó! ¡Ya cayó! ¡Ronaldo ya cayó!”

(He already fell! Ronaldo Already Fell!)

So was the chant, adapted from the popular movements of Oaxaca, that closed out the 2006 Student/Farmworker Alliance (SFA) Encuentro in Immokalee, Florida in late September. The Ronaldo being referred to is, of course, the all-too-ubiquitous symbol of fast-food giant McDonald’s, the main target in an escalating campaign by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) - a community-based, worker-led organization of Latino, Haitian, and Mayan Indian migrant workers based in southwest Florida - to secure better wages and working conditions for farmworkers in McDonald’s tomato supply chain.

During the Encuentro, over sixty young organizers from across the country gathered in Immokalee for three days of reflection, discussion, and strategizing about the struggle for Fair Food. Youth and student leaders from more than 15 states and representing more than 30 organizations and campuses - a sample of the breadth of support that the CIW can count on in the months and years ahead - participated in the Encuentro.

Two National Days of Action were hatched at the Encuentro. This “1+2 Punch” was designed to follow and build on the momentum of the Midwest Mini-Tour that the CIW conducted in mid-October from Immokalee to McDonalds corporate headquarters in Chicago, stopping along the way to sow the seeds of consciousness from Louisville to Carbondale, Illinois. The Mini-Tour was tremendously successful and helped to build local networks of allies who will continue the fight in their own communities. While the CIW has not yet officially called for a national boycott of McDonald’s, once the truth about farm-

worker poverty that lies behind the Golden Arches was known, people couldn’t help but begin to whisper the “B” word.

During the Days of Action organized by the SFA held on October 27 and 28, people in 40 communities across the U.S. joined together in protests and educational activities in support of the CIW’s Campaign for Fair Food-the name for the campaign by the Immokalee workers to improve working conditions in the fields. A clear signal was sent to McDonald’s: Immokalee’s



pic: carlosjiwi

workers are not alone in this fight.

Decades of grinding poverty, lack of basic legal protections and rights, abuse and violence, substandard housing, and, in extreme cases, conditions of modern-day slavery endured by farmwork-

ers have padded McDonald’s tremendous profits. But enough is enough. As CIW members declared in a particularly moving moment during the Mini-Tour outside McDonald’s global headquarters in suburban Chicago, their arms outstretched toward the mammoth building displaying the hands that tell the story of the brutally difficult and undervalued labor that forms the base of McDonald’s billion-dollar enterprise: “With these hands we demand the future that sub-poverty wages have stolen from us.”

McDonald’s is actively seeking to undermine what the CIW has been able to achieve through a decade of community-based struggle and the successful Taco Bell boycott. Our ability to provide an effective response as a student/youth movement - a movement of the very demographic referred to by McDonald’s as its marketing “sweet spot” - could have very serious implications for the CIW and Immokalee’s farmworker community. In the end our commitment to running an effective campaign and achieving victory over McDonald’s is the single best way in which we could put accountability into practice.

There is little doubt that a victory against McDonald’s, and the far-ranging improvements for workers in the Florida-based agricultural industry that will result, is less a question of if and more a question of when. We chanted to close the Encuentro, words which later became a favorite on the picket lines, Ronald has already fallen.

An earlier version of this article appears in the current issue of Left Turn.

# MARCH UNDER THE EL: A JUSTICE TOUR

By colleencatherine. | 11.14.2006

Lutheran Settlement House.

And here’s why...

Peace and anti-poverty activists joined in efforts to end the war and demand economic human rights here at home in the “March Under the EL”, Saturday, November 4th. They began at the Frankford Transportation Center, Bridge and Pratt Streets and ended at the Independence Park Visitors Center lawn, 5th & Market Streets. They marched under and periodically rode the EL through Frankford, Kensington, Fishtown, and other neighborhoods to reach out to residents immediately before the elections.

The event was organized and supported by the Brandywine Peace Community, www.brandywinepeace.com, and the Kensington Welfare Rights Union. It was Co-Sponsored by: PRAWN, Philadelphia Buddhist Peace Fellowship, New Jerusalem Laura, Delco Pledge of Resistance, Atonement Lutheran Church, Frankford Group Ministries, the simple way, and

According to the recently published report by the John Hopkins University, more than 600,000 Iraqis, or 2.5% of the Iraqi population have been killed in the violence of war that began with the March 2003 invasion. This past month’s U.S. death toll in Iraq - 105 - brings the number of U.S. dead to 2, 819, with more than 20, 687 wounded. The human toll is unimaginable and price tag is staggering.

The war in Iraq is now costing \$177 million a day. Philadelphia taxpayers this year will pay more than \$330 million for the war.

Meanwhile, one in three children in Philadelphia live in poverty and the murder rate in the city has reached 334 for the year.

\$330,744,960 - The Cost to Philadelphia of the War in Iraq = Full four-year college scholarships for 12,000 graduates of city schools; = 3600 affordable homes in the city.

Poverty breeds violence. For justice and peace: STOP THE WAR - END POVERTY.

This article was taken from an email sent by the Brandywine Peace Community, www.brandywinepeace.com arriving to the defenestrator via phillyimc.org



pic: cotten catherine

# Oaxaca Libre La Lucha Sigue !

by dave onion

It’s been a turbulent few weeks in Oaxaca. If you read corporate news accounts of the current uprising in Oaxaca, you’ll read quotes of distressed tourists unhappy their vacation has been ruined by reckless mobs; “how difficult it is to sit in the main square and savour the famous chocolate or mole sauce.” Or the businesses that haven’t been open for weeks. What rarely emerges beyond the spectacle of whiny tourists are the stories of thousands of Mexico’s poor and dispossessed fighting against a system of political corruption as well as entrenched economic and police violence.

What started as an annual teachers strike, that usually ends with a slight wage increase, with a public ongoing picket has escalated into a mass movement that has joined forces with a number of different popular forces to be one of the more hopeful movements we see emerging around the world. Despite ruthless attempts at repression, this movement has grown enormously, connecting with movements from across Mexico and the world.

On June 14, after police attacked an annual teachers’ strike, community organizers and democratically inspired rebels from across the spectrum gathered in support. A few weeks later blossomed the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca or APPO. APPO managed to quickly pull together elements of Oaxaca’s state regions and municipalities, unions, non-governmental organizations, social organizations, cooperatives, and parents, urging everyone to organize popular assemblies at every level: neighborhood blocks, unions, and

solve our problems,” members of APPO repeat. Over 350 organizations and thousands upon thousands of Oaxacans have joined forces with APPO. Human rights defense groups later confirmed a total of 113 wounded people attended to in different public hospitals of the city as a result of the attempted eviction: 57.5% policemen and 25.7% teachers.

APPO has gone far beyond typical demands of a strike. Oaxaca’s State governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz (known as URO) of the long ruling PRI party (who had up to recently ruled Mexico for decades, infamously corrupt and violent) is probably APPO’s main issue. Ruiz was the one who had ordered the attacks on the strike in June, though especially for poor Oaxacans, URO is potent living symbol for both the corruption and arrogance of the PRI. Indigenous Oaxacans and struggling workers have been largely left out of the benefits of Oaxaca’s tourist economy and URO has routinely resorted to killings, torture and repression to solve social problems. Across Oaxaca’s walls graffiti calling for his banishment, extermination and humiliation are ubiquitous.

By September the APPO had virtually taken over all functions of the government, banned URO from Oaxaca replacing him with a “proclamation of good government for the city of Oaxaca, a proclamation for the 570 municipalities, and a manifesto to the nation, declaring the banishment of URO from the government, and that the government will continue to be exercised from the historic center of the city of Oaxaca”. The PRI’s murderous and corrupt local police were also eclipsed by security patrols from the Assemblies. The patrols maintained barricades at night to stop thieves and looters as well as keep tabs on PRIista paramilitaries.

## Repression

With cops banned from the city under control of the Popular Assemblies, police, military and PRI supporters have been taking a steady mortal toll on the

barricades. After the state government issued arrest warrants for 50 leaders of the APPO a now defunct website “Oaxaca en Paz” posted photos and home addresses of organizers with a red X crossing the face of those who had already been killed by paramilitaries. Starting seriously in August a number of kidnappings and killings began taking place.

On August 7, Catarino Torres Pereda, spokesman for the Citizens Defense Committee, member of APPO, was one of the first to be detained only to be followed by dozens of other disappearances, kidnappings and killings. August 10th, among a number of pro-APPO professors who were abducted was Germán Mendoza Nube, the wheel chair-bound founder of the Teachers Commission of Human Rights. Several days later Erangelio Mendoza González, secretary general of a section of the teachers union was visibly beaten and tortured while being detained by state police. In the months since, a steady stream of attacks from pro-police and PRI forces trickled from news sources, but a serious increase in attacks started mid October. On the 14th Alejandro García Hernández was shot in the head and killed. A number of others were injured in the attack by gunshot wounds. The eighth victim since June. In the days following, coinciding with a hunger strike and a 72 hour ultimatum for Ruiz’ resignation, barricades were attacked by pro-police forces across the city with dozens injured from the gunfire.

On October 27th Esteban Lopez Zurita, teacher Emilio Alonso Fabian and Indymedia journalist Brad Will were all killed at barricades. Brad Will, who lived in NYC, had been traveling across Latin America, reporting and supporting anti-authoritarian struggles and movements all over. Many Philadelphians may know him from marches in support of Mumia or his role during the anti-RNC actions in 2000. His death hit many of us with a sharp blow as we lost a good friend and a solid freedom fighter. In response to these killings, hundreds of actions in solidarity: consulate and embassy occupations with Oaxaca went down across the world demanding justice for Brad and the people of Oaxaca.

The mainstream media, contributing to the ignorance of the situation outside of Mexico, typically described these massacres in which the only ones

article continued on page 15



## Brad Will RIP a companero and a journalist

by Camilo Viveiros

Brad Will, a friend and a friend to the international struggle for justice, was murdered. I met Brad when we traveled cross country and attended a radical conference in Ohio together. I remember him dancing to a contemporary dance piece during the Active Resistance conference in Chicago in the 1990s, adding well done and creative art to the events. Brad continued to dance. He danced against wrecking balls that tried to rip apart squats in New York City. He crisscrossed the global south recording and publicizing the struggle for justice. He did not forget the struggle here. The last time I saw him was in NYC during the Still We Rise demonstrations against the RNC. He greeted me with his trademark warm smile. Proud of his improved Spanish skills, he was excited that he could better serve the struggles that inspire him.

He inspires us to challenge ourselves to learn and grow to be better in service to our liberation and the liberation of others. He inspires us to live full lives, to take risks in the here and now, to listen to the voices of those fighting oppression, to never stop our dance to unite with those yearning for freedom by following the sounds of aching hearts, to never stop the dance that moves us to join those who cry in pain in the struggle, to never stop the dance that follows the rhythm of the multitudes’ beating hearts for justice. I will miss you Brad. I will miss your spontaneity, your warmth and your joy.

Brad, I will dance with you, even if I am never as graceful, even if I stumble and fall and even if I am feeble at times, I will dance with you brother, forever. I love you, Brad.

Camilo Viveiros

# JUST SAY NO! TO MILITARY RECRUITMENT IN COLLEGE SCHOOLS

art by elian! -- www.dhruva.vesana.com



## RECRUITING:

In 2001, 38.1% of the enlisted personnel were people of color, but only 16.7% of the officers were. (14% of the Marine Corp are Latino, but only constitute 5.3% of the officers). A 1994 investigation of Ft. Leavenworth military prison found that 50% of all the inmates, and 83% of those under a military death-sentence, were people of color.

30% of military women reported being victims of rape or attempted rape. 75% had experienced sexual harassment (Reuters Health, 3/14/03)

Richard Cheney, while Secretary of Defense, stated "The military is not a social welfare agency; it's not a jobs program." Cheney's moment of candor gives the lie to Army advertisement and the recruiter's sales pitch.

College tuition is not guaranteed. According to the Veterans affairs dept, only half of eligible servicepeople are using their educational benefits. One quarter of enlistees receive a less-than-honorable discharge and one-in-three leave the military early rendering them ineligible.

## PERSONAL FREEDOM:

Military Law imposes limits on personal freedom that would not be acceptable in civilian society. For example: If you leave your work without permission, you can be arrested; Any disobedience can result in criminal punishment; ?You can be punished without the right to see a lawyer or have a trial;? Your right to say what you think when and how you want will be restricted; ? Individual expression through the way you dress and wear your hair won't be tolerated; ? You will be subject to routine urine tests for drugs.

## THE FREE COLLEGE:

This one seems a little obvious, but many join the military in peacetime never expecting to be called up for service. As current events show, this is not a safe bet. Many service-people have been called to Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of those serving have been forced--through the "back door draft"--to stay for multiple tours of duty, often in addition to the original commitment agreed to at enlistment.

Obviously, contrary to the heroics depicted in advertisements, service in a war zone entails being shot at and shooting other human beings. Apart from the high death toll in Iraq, and the disfiguring injuries caused by Improvised Explosive Devices (read: lost limbs) there are hidden risks. According to the Department of Veteran Affairs 100,000 veterans of the Gulf War have claimed at least 10% disability, many apparently suffering from chemical exposure and possibly from side effects of vaccines administered by the US Army.

## DEATH AND INJURY:

# ACT UP Sees Victory on Condoms in City Jails

by Suzy Subways

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) is known for taking the Center City streets without a permit and holding noisy demonstrations outside politicians' homes. But this time, it looks like just the threat of a protest may be enough for the grassroots AIDS activists to win a basic public-health demand -- access to condoms for both women and men in Philadelphia's jails.

The Philadelphia Prison System (PPS) adopted HIV/AIDS Prevention Policy E.4.3.1 in 1988, pledging to provide condoms to all prisoners. Canada's federal prisons provide condoms in bins located in common areas like showers and libraries -- shattering the standard U.S. criminal injustice systems' argument that condoms would be used to smuggle drugs or to throw human shit at corrections officers. Only Vermont, New York City, San Francisco, Washington, DC, and Los Angeles allow condom distribution, and in most of these places they are only for specific groups. For example, LA allows the nonprofit Center for Health Justice to distribute a limited number of condoms within a segregated unit of out, gay and transgender prisoners.

But even Philly's unique program doesn't reach most prisoners, as ACT UP found out by interviewing about a dozen ex-offenders at the 4th annual Beyond the Walls Prison Summit last June. Men said it was hard to ask for condoms because of the stigma of homophobia. Women said they had attended safe-sex workshops where condoms were passed out -- only to be taken away by guards. One male ex-prisoner said that the majority of corrections officers would "order you to go to the hole or confinement... once they come in your cell and find condoms. Then they know you are doing something [illegal]." A woman prison worker said male condoms should be banned among women because (gasp!) "females use the male condoms for dildos and to have sex with other females."

ACT UP Philly's campaign is part of the national Prevention Justice Partnership (PJP)

of the Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP), which was founded by former longtime ACT UP Philly member Julie Davids. PJP member groups, including ACT UP Austin and activists in Los Angeles and New York City, act independently but share notes on strategy and research.

PJP groups gained steam after the Centers for Disease Control released the results of interviews with HIV positive male prisoners in the Georgia state system last April. By far, the majority of sex inside was consensual, and the interviews revealed that 30% of those having consensual sex tried to protect themselves and their partners by using makeshift condoms -- usually latex gloves or saran wrap.

Over the summer ACT UP met with PPS Commissioner Leon King, who wanted good press in an election year and community support while being sued for severely overcrowded facilities. The unusual friendliness sometimes broke down when ACT UPpers angrily realized that King's staff had not taken steps they had promised in earlier meetings. Finally, PPS agreed to an updated policy:

- \*both male and female condoms and possibly dental dams
- \*availability at sick call visits, triage area, medication carts, in hygiene packages at intake, and in indigent packages upon release (for those with less than \$5 in their accounts)
- \*adding condoms to the commissary list, for anonymity and to send a message to corrections officers that condoms are not contraband.
- \*promoting

condoms in the inmates' handbook, and in an educational video and bilingual posters, both created by ACT UP.

But the agreement -- made at an October 19th meeting -- seemed like another broken promise when King's spokesperson denied it in the press, merely stating that the policy was under review. ACT UP's Waheedah Shabazz-El, a former prisoner living with HIV herself, says the activists' media strategy put pressure on King to keep his promise: "Every reporter we talked to asked for the commissioner's phone number. That's when they found out he was in denial, but we gave them enough facts that they could tell we had talked to PPS."

ACT UP allies held King's feet to the fire at a meeting November 2nd between PPS health-care staff, public defenders, religious groups, recovery houses, and prisoner and AIDS advocates to discuss re-entry services for the newly released.

"He was asked in a meeting of 35 people," Shabazz says. "Everybody in that room wanted to know. He said, 'I had not gotten the chance

to ask my boss. I was on vacation for 2 weeks. I don't anticipate that he will say no.' This was a public statement -- it sounds like he has every intention of signing it," she says, adding that King will meet with the mayor's deputy director on November 8.

Six months after King signs the new policy, ACT UP plans to hold him to a promised tour of PPS facilities to confirm that condoms are widely available, the posters are up, the videos are running, and nobody gets sent to the hole for trying to protect themselves and their sex partners. Prisoners will be given confidential follow-up surveys to mail directly to ACT UP.

And if he doesn't sign it? There's always ACT UP's specialty -- noisy, angry, well-publicized protests.

*ACT UP has already begun an ambitious outreach campaign to high school students as part of its next project -- access to condoms in the city's high schools, only 9 of which offer them now.*



ACT UP raising hell back in 2003

## Haditha Peace Event at Senator Specter's Home

by Rich Gardner

Northwest Peace and Justice Movement, Northwest Greens , Philadelphia Regional Anti-War Network, and members of 17 other peace organizations demonstrated near Senator Arlen Specter's home on Sunday, November 19, at the corner of Timber Lane and Schoolhouse Lane in East Falls.

The activists were protesting Specter's failure to strongly push for an end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq. The peace event took place on the first anniversary of the massacre by U.S. Marines of 24 civilians in the town of Haditha, Iraq.

Many supporters of the U.S. occupation want to drag the discussion into the area of: "Well how exactly would you pull out? What's your exact timeline? How would you solve various technical problems?" The demonstrators see it differently. While the present discussion in the U.S. seems to be about whether or not U.S. forces should disengage from Iraq, they believe that that the discussion

should have long since moved past that point.

According to the demonstrators, the November elections have made it clear that the U.S. public is in favor of disengagement. There should no longer be any question as to whether to disengage. The U.S. must start moving our troops out of Iraq and allowing Iraqis to take their own country back.

Keep in mind that the casualty rate from the U.S. occupation of Iraq has been seen, in an artificial manner, as low. The ratio of wounded-to-killed soldiers has historically been about three-to-one: for every combatant killed, there have normally been three wounded. Medical advances and rapid evacuations have made the ratio in this war about 10-to-one: for every combatant killed, there are now 10 who are wounded.

Seeing as the major media does not report wounded alongside killed, the American public views the cost of the Iraq War as artificially low. Still, anti-war groups around town are able to muster substantial groups to protest the war. And they get lots

and lots of cars honking to show their support as they pass.

Next month there will be A Soldier's Question Peace Event from 2:00 until 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 17, near Senator Specter's home on West Schoolhouse Lane, between Gypsy Lane and Henry Avenue. Pentagon Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was visiting Kuwait in December 2004, when a soldier asked him, "Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal to up-armor our vehicles?" Rumsfeld replied, "You go to war with the army you have." Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE) called that "a flippant comment," and Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS) called for Rumsfeld's replacement.

The demonstrators will ask Specter to author a bill like HB 4232 which will cut off all Pentagon funding in Iraq, except money needed for an orderly withdrawal of all U.S. troops. More information from info2506@prawnworks.net and 215-307-7980.

for more info on PRAWN, check out: www.prawnworks.net



## Iran, the MKO and Freedom

By Colin Cascia

Note: the MKO is referred to by various names such as MEK or PLOI depending on the source.

Well oiled from the current war, U.S.A.'s propaganda machine has geared up for a possible war against Iran. As U.S. warships and the nuclear aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower wait ominously in the Persian Gulf1, the media is launching a war of its own, using their patented method of demonizing Arabs as anti-Semites, misogynists and terrorists. Yet behind the scenes, the US government is collaborating with a group they define as terrorists- a group they cited to prove that Saddam Hussein had connections to terrorist organizations.

The Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) identifies themselves as a Marxist-Islamist guerilla army, but has a long and complex history of violence and betrayal that makes it difficult to understand exactly who and what they stand for. Their recent collaboration with the U.S. intelligence and military blurs their identity ever more.

### Send in the Terrorists

In an April, 2006 article from the alternative news website, The Raw Story, Larisa Alexandrova interviewed several former intelligence officials who implicated the U.S. in what appears to be the initial plans for a war with Iran. One of her sources said, "The US army secured a key MEK facility 60 miles northwest of Baghdad shortly after the 2003 invasion, but they did not secure the MEK and let them basically be because [then Deputy Defense Secretary Paul] Wolfowitz was thinking ahead to Iran."

"These guys are nuts," another former intelligence source was quoted as saying. "[Stephen] Cambone [the Undersecretary of Defense Intelligence] and those guys made MEK members swear an oath to Democracy and resign from the MEK and then our guys incorporated them into their unit and trained them."

The sources also indicated that among the US supporters of the MKO are former Attorney

General John Ashcroft, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld; the latter two were responsible for the aforementioned plan to "convert" the MKO into democratic freedom fighters.2 "In 2000," Wikipedia's article on the MKO reads, "200 US congress members signed a statement endorsing the organization's cause."3

### "Nucuelar" Un-Intelligence

According to Green Left Online, some of the US intelligence on alleged nuclear weapons development came from Alireza Jafarzadeh, former spokesman for the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), the semi-legitimate political arm of the MKO. Jafarzadeh apparently provided US agents with drawings of planned underground tunnels where nuclear weapons were to be developed and tested.4

### Which Side are They on?

I have to admit that as a western radical, at first glance the MKO is enticing. They formed in the 1960's as a people's liberation army, with a mix of Marx and Mohammed fighting against the Shah and, later, the oppressive clerical regime that has made a thousand empty promises to the poor of Iran. However, we shouldn't fetishize or idealize the MKO, in the exact same way that western leftists in the early 70's idealized the Khmer Rouge, right before they revealed themselves as genocidal psychotics in the vast killing fields of Cambodia.

To their credit, the MKO fought bravely and successfully to free Iran from the Shah and his puppet-masters, assassinating US officials and launching a guerilla war that helped turn the tides of the Iranian revolution. At one point in time the MKO were truly fighting for, and alongside, the people of Iran and had a good chance of gaining popular support for a full-scale revolution. But that time ended as the Ayatollah outlawed and began to persecute the MKO. It was then in the early 80's during the Iran-Iraq war that they sought the assistance of Saddam Hussein, even as he murdered Iranians with bombs and mustard gas. Hussein armed and funded the MKO during and after the war in an attempt to destabilize Iran- the same strategy the US is now attempting. It failed for Saddam. In fact, Khomeini consolidated his

power through the opposition of Iraq and the MKO.3

In 1989, the MKO moved their base of operations to Iraq, after being exiled from both Iran and France. They fought for Saddam, aiding him in his brutal campaign against both the Shiites and the Kurds. The instances of Hussein's cruelty have been well documented by the mainstream media, so I won't go into detail, but a quote from a former MKO leader will concisely illustrate their involvement: "Take the Kurds under your tanks and save your bullets for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard."5

In the spring of 2005, Human Rights Watch interviewed 12 former members of the MKO, five of whom were held in Abu Ghraib after the MKO turned them over to Saddam Hussein's regime. The interviews revealed MKO practices of "... detention and persecution of ordinary members wishing to leave the organization ..." and "... lengthy solitary confinements, severe beatings, and torture of dissident members." The Iraqi Republican Guard sent one of the men to Abu Ghraib and held him in solitary confinement for over eight years.6

### A Deadly Hypocrisy

So after all of this the US is using the MKO to support their claims of an Iranian nuclear arms program and as a proxy-army to clear the way for a US occupation. The MKO, in turn, has no qualms about accepting the support of a foreign aggressor whose war will invariably cost many Iranian lives. This two-faced policy is obviously nothing new. Look no further than Saddam Hussein, Nicole Escareau, Slobodan Milosevic or Alqueda and Bin-Laden himself and you will find a history of foreign policy rich in hypocrisy and the empire's ability to turn their lackeys into monsters when they become inconvenient.

It is hard to wade through the propaganda of all sides and figure out exactly what the MKO are fighting for. Are they terrorists? A people's liberation army? Are they even Marxists anymore? Although they still identify themselves as Marxist-Islamists, according to Wikipedia one of their demands is a free market economy in Iran.3 And the Raw Story article about CIA-MKO collaboration refers to them as "a right wing terrorist organization." 2 Regardless of their ideology, the MKO supported Saddam in his attacks against Iranians and now appears like they will help the US military slaughter more of their own people. One can only imagine how the organization, with their unpopularity in Iran, will go after civilians who oppose them, as they have in the past. Unless the MKO dramatically changes its ways, its tarnished name and key members, it is no longer a viable means for Iranian liberation. The students, workers and youth on the other hand ...

### Iranian Freedom

People in Iran are fed up with being underfed. The Iranian Press Service reported on a survey taken in October, 2006 by the state-controlled radio and television network: from a sample of 3000 Iranians, 65% are dissatisfied with Ahmadinejad. This is a dramatic turn around from a similar survey taken in 2005, which shows Ahmadinejad to have an approval of 60%. The number one reason given was his failure to stabilize food prices.7 Apparently he

has not kept his promise of "putting the petroleum income on people's tables,"

In Iran Awakening, her intensely personal account of Iranian history, Shiran Ebadi explains to a Western audience that, "... the Iranian revolution has produced its own opposition, not least a nation of educated, conscious women who are agitating for their rights. They must be given the chance to fight their own fights, to transform their country uninterrupted."8

Previously, dissidents, whether leftists, artists or intellectuals, fled Iran to escape repression and/or to emigrate to places where their work would be accepted. Ebadi chose to stay in Iran, to help the nation she loves through the painful and sometimes violent birth of liberty. Many students and opponents of the Iranian government are now doing the same.

In his book The Clash of Fundamentalisms, Tariq Ali documents Iranian opposition:

"In 2001 there were 52 street demonstrations against the clerics, one for each week of the year, 370 strikes, one for each day of the year and open skirmishes between the youth and the hated religious police, a bunch of corrupt sadists. For the last two years the Nauroz festival, the pagan new year, which pre-dates Islam, was openly celebrated by young men and unveiled young women who taunted the religious police to do its worst. This is only the beginning, but what it shows is that people learn through their own experiences. These are much better teachers than American bombs."9

The Iranian people, not the U.S., not the MKO, not the clerics must determine the destiny of their nation.

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# Freiheit für Mumia Abu-Jamal !

## German book reveals new evidence in death-row case

by Hans Bennett

“The history of the criminal case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, which is by now almost 25 years old, has been characterized by bias right from the start: against a black man whom the court denied a jury of his peers, against a member of the economic underclass who did not have a real claim to a qualified defense, and against a radical, whose allegedly dangerous militancy obliged the state to eliminate him from the ranks of society.”

So writes German author Michael Schiffmann in his new book Race Against Death. Mumia Abu-Jamal: a Black Revolutionary in White America (an expansion of Schiffmann’s PhD dissertation at the University of Heidelberg), just released in Germany this past month.

In 1982, Abu-Jamal he was convicted of killing white Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner and sentenced to death in a trial that Amnesty International has declared a “violation of minimum international standards that govern fair trial procedures and the use of the death penalty.”

Schiffmann writes that a third person (besides Abu-Jamal and his brother Billy Cook) most likely shot and killed police officer Daniel Faulkner on the morning of December 9, 1981. This third person was Kenneth Freeman (Billy Cook’s friend and business partner), who – according to the available evidence – was a passenger in Cook’s car. Freeman likely shot him in response to Faulkner shooting Abu-Jamal in the chest, and was



therefore the black male that six eyewitnesses reported to see fleeing the scene moments before other police arrived.

Race Against Death asserts that ballistics almost certainly rule out Abu-Jamal firing the first shot (into Faulkner’s back), and that much evidence shows that he also didn’t fire the lethal bullet to Faulkner’s head. However, in the very unlikely scenario that Abu-Jamal did shoot Faulkner, it would have been a response to being shot himself and would therefore be justified self-defense.

MIT professor Noam Chomsky (a long-time supporter of Abu-Jamal) writes that Schiffmann’s “careful and scrupulous inquiry into the events and the available evidence brings to light much that is new or was obscured,” and “raises understanding of this painful and critically important case to a new level. Not only his comprehensive research, but also his penetrating evaluation of the background and import, should be the basis for further engagement in the case itself and the intricate array of issues in which it is embedded.”

Building upon evidence presented in the other two books written about Abu-Jamal’s case (Dan Williams’ 2001 Executing Justice and Dave Lindorff’s 2003 Killing Time), Schiffmann boldly presents both new evidence and an entirely original analysis of previous ballistics evidence.

### A New Witness: Photographer Pedro Polakoff

In May, 2006, Schiffmann discovered two photographs on the Internet that were taken by the only press photographer immediately present at the 1981 crime scene – Pedro Polakoff. The photographer arrived within 12 minutes of hearing about the shooting on the police radio and about ten minutes before the Mobile Crime Unit (responsible for forensics and photographs) arrived. This unit had still not taken any photos when Polakoff left after 30-45 minutes at the scene.

Upon contacting Polakoff, Schiffmann learned that three of his 31 original shots were published in Philly newspapers at the time, and five others were lost. Schiffmann told Axis of Logic that he “published five of the 26 remaining photos to show the following three points:

- 1)“The cops manipulated evidence and supplied the trial court with stuff that was simply stage-managed. On Polakoff’s photos, P.O. Faulkner’s police hat at first is clearly

on the roof of Billy Cook’s VW, and only later on the sidewalk in front of 1234 Locust where it was photographed by the police photographer who arrived 10 minutes after Polakoff!

2)“In court Police Officer James Forbes claimed that he had ‘secured’ the weapons of both Faulkner and Mumia without touching them on their metal parts in order to not destroy potential fingerprints. However, in the single photo reprinted in the book you can see that Forbes is touching the weapons on their metal parts, and quite a few of Polakoff’s other photos make it clear that Forbes touched and smudged these weapons all over, destroying any potential fingerprint evidence that may have been on them.

3)“The second-most important prosecution witness, cab driver Robert Chobert, simply was not parked in the spot, allegedly right behind Officer Faulkner’s police squad car, where he claimed to have been and from where he claimed to have observed Mumia fire the shot that killed the officer.”

Polakoff’s observations don’t stop there. Schiffmann writes in Race Against Death : “According to Polakoff, at that time all the officers present expressed the firm conviction that Abu-Jamal had been the passenger in Billy Cook’s VW and had fired and killed Faulkner by a single shot fired from the passenger seat of the car.”

“Polakoff further reports that the opinion of the police about what had happened was apparently based on the testimony of three witnesses who were still present at the crime scene, namely, by the parking lot attendant in charge of the parking lot on the Northern side of Locust Street, by a drug addicted woman apparently acquainted with the parking lot attendant, and another woman. As Polakoff later heard from colleagues in the media, the parking lot attendant had disappeared the day after, while the drug-addicted witness died a couple of days later from an overdose. Whatever it was that these witnesses saw or did not see, we will probably never know – the interesting fact in any case is that neither of them ever appeared in any report presented by the police or the prosecution.”

Polakoff told Schiffmann that he was simply ignored when he repeatedly contacted the DA’s office to give them his account--and his photos--of the crime scene.

Schiffmann has informed Mumia’s lawyers about Polakoff’s evidence and they are looking into it further.

### No Bullet Traces in Sidewalk

The prosecution claims that Mumia stood over and shot at Faulkner 3-4 times (with only one shot hitting him) while Faulkner was lying on his back. Schiffmann asserts that if this was true, there would have had to have been 2-3 large divots in the pavement (next to Faulkner’s body) resulting from the bullets’ impact. Since photos and police reports do not reveal any damage or bullet fragments in that location, Schiffmann concludes that the prosecution scenario must be false.

While this “missing divots” observation was publicly revealed in 2001 by Mumia’s former

lawyers, Schiffmann is literally the first writer to investigate this further.

To support the assertion Schiffmann interviewed a German ballistics expert and was told that “such divots couldn’t possibly have been overlooked.” He concludes: “They were simply not there.”

Furthermore, photographer Pedro Polakoff, “emphatically denied that there could be any such divots beneath the blood or anywhere else in the area of the sidewalk to be seen on his photos.”

After asserting the fraudulence of the prosecution’s scenario, Schiffmann goes further and declares that the three prosecution witnesses supporting this scenario must have been lying. Even ignoring previous evidence that witnesses Robert Chobert and Cynthia White falsely testified, “the absence of any bullet traces or bullets in the sidewalk in front of 1234 Locust is irrefutable physical evidence that these two, plus witness Michael Scanlan did not tell the truth at Mumia’s trial. By that simple observation a central part of the prosecution’s theory is simply blown out of the water – and new evidence is on the table thereby for the coaching, coercion and manipulation of witnesses.”

### Bullet and Fragments at Crime Scene

Schiffmann’s entirely original ballistics analysis is the most explosive section of Race Against Death. Researched for more than three years, this chapter analyzes both the unexplained bullet & fragments found in the doorway of 1234 Locust Street and the copper bullet jacket found on the sidewalk (all a full car-length from Officer Faulkner’s body).

Most likely the bullet shot into Faulkner’s Back (traveling at an upward angle and exiting slightly beneath his throat) came from the sidewalk behind Faulkner as he was facing northwest towards Mumia and towards the parking lot situated at the northeastern corner of the intersection 13th and Locust where Mumia came from. The most logical way for Mumia to approach the scene was diagonally from Northwest to Southeast – but the only bullet fragment found in or around 1234 Locust that could have had anything to do with the shot in Faulkner’s back traveled from Northeast to Southwest, at a sharp angle from where Mumia was approaching the scene! Schiffmann shows that even if Mumia had approached the scene in an indirect and awkward way by almost circumventing it first, the bullet fragment in question cannot have come from a shot fired by him at that time.

There was no evidence of any bullet further east down Locust – where it would have been had Mumia shot Faulkner from his more logical approach to the scene from a northwestern direction.

Schiffmann writes in Race that “this evidence shows that the first shot that hit Faulkner did not come from the direction from which Abu-Jamal approached the scene, could therefore not have been fired by Abu-Jamal, and was thus necessarily fired by some third person, a possibility that the prosecution has always

**continued next page**

adamantly denied.”

Schiffmann told Axis of Logic: “The first key point is that Mumia is no murderer. If he shot at all, he shot to defend his own life, after he intervened at the scene in the first place to protect his brother who had already been beaten bloody.”

“Second, it is very unlikely that Mumia even took his gun out of its holster during that fateful night. What if the destruction of fingerprint evidence on Mumia’s gun (shown in Polakoff’s photos) was not just negligent, but deliberate? It would mean that the police themselves were the ones who drew Mumia’s weapon (which had been empty apart from five spent cartridges to begin with) out of his shoulder holster.”

### The Third Person: Ken Freeman?

Schiffmann cites six witnesses (including several that were intimidated by police) that saw someone run away before police arrived, and then argues that this third person was most likely Billy Cook’s business partner and friend, Kenneth Freeman.

In the 1995 PCRA hearings it was revealed that Faulkner had a license application in his front pocket (concealed from the defense for 13 years) for one Arnold Howard – who testified that he had loaned his temporary (non-photo) license to Kenneth Freeman.

Schiffmann explained to Axis of Logic that “Billy Cook’s attorney Daniel Alva told Dave Lindorff (in his book Killing Time) that Cook had told him within days after the shooting that Freeman had been with him that night. There wasn’t the slightest reason for Alva do have done so if it was not indeed true. Lying to journalists doesn’t belong to the duties of a defense attorney, and the assumption that a well-respected member of the Philadelphia legal community such as Alva would do so for no apparent reason makes little sense to me.”

Returning to his ballistics analysis, Schiffmann argues: “A person coming out of the passenger seat of Billy Cook’s VW would have been ideally placed to fire the shot that hit Faulkner in the back and exited through the region below his throat. Faulkner had on a clip-on police tie that was apparently hit right at that clip (since there was blood and lead on it). The tie was found nowhere near 1234 Locust where it should have been found had Mumia fired that shot in Faulkner’s back. Instead, it was on the Northern side of Locust shortly before the intersection 13th and Locust. And this, in turn, means that the shooter must have been on the sidewalk in front of 1234 Locust – not in the street coming from the parking lot, as Mumia was.”

Further supporting Schiffmann’s argument are the mysterious circumstance of Freeman’s death. On May 13, 1985 (the same day police firebombed the MOVE organization’s headquarters) Freeman was found dead in a parking lot. Likely murdered by police that day, he was found naked, handcuffed and had a drug needle in his arm. Given the impossibility of injecting himself with the needle while handcuffed, the official explanation for the 31-year-old’s death (heart attack) seems incredible.

“If Freeman was indeed killed by cops, the killing probably was part of a general vendetta of the Philadelphia cops against their ‘enemies’ and the cops killed him because they knew or suspected he had something to do with the killing of Faulkner,” said Schiffmann.

### The Arnold Beverly Confession

After years of careful analysis, Schiffmann concludes that the scenario presented by career criminal Arnold Beverly in his 2001 affidavit (stating that he killed Faulkner and that Mumia was not involved) is “too contradictory to be tenable.” However, Schiffmann is highly critical of the courts’ flippant rejection of the Beverly affidavit. Considering the seriousness of a death-row homicide case, he argues that they should have at least determined its credibility in a public court hearing.

The controversial Beverly scenario is no longer an issue in the courts, but Schiffmann argues that this may not be the worst thing. “The Beverly affidavit has often been a distraction from what should be the really central issues: frame-up, unfair trial, legal innocence, actual innocence. No Arnold Beverly is needed to show that Mumia should be a free man and shouldn’t have spent even one day in jail.”

### Freiheit für Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Noam Chomsky argues that “Mumia’s case is symbolic of something much broader... The US prison system is simply class and race war... Mumia and other prisoners are the kind of people that get assassinated by what’s called ‘social cleansing’ in US client states like Colombia.”

Schiffmann also feels that Mumia’s case is part of a much larger picture and devotes most of his book to providing a proper historical context. “Determined not to write the typical boring academic tract,” Schiffmann told Axis of Logic: “My book’s not just about Mumia. His case is important because of the larger legal, political, and social issues that his case exposes. I investigate the U.S.’s constitutional tradition, the history of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, the horrendous history of city development in the U.S. tragically exemplified in Philadelphia, Mumia’s extraordinary yet typical history of a Black youth alienated by the false promises the U.S. ‘offered’ for him as a young man of the wrong color, and finally the development of the U.S. into a virtual police state for many segments of the population.”

Schiffmann emphasizes the extreme importance of Mumia’s current battle in the courtroom, but feels that solid legal strategy will only go so far in gaining a new trial. The key will be to exert maximum political pressure from the grassroots in Philadelphia and around the world. A “broad, multi-faceted and democratic mass-movement,” emphasizing that “Mumia is all of us,” must be used to ensure real justice.

Schiffmann urges those in the U.S. to attend (or support locally) the massive Philadelphia demonstration being organized to support Abu-Jamal on December 9 – the 25th anniversary of Abu-Jamal’s arrest. “We have kept Mumia alive. Against the odds, we have won the first stage of an uphill battle. Now we must go on all the way – and that is to free Mumia Abu-Jamal!”



This review is based on both an exclusive reading of the (unpublished) English language version of Race Against Death and the author’s recent full-length interview with Schiffmann about his book and the German movement supporting Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Michael Schiffmann’s book Race Against Death: Mumia Abu-Jamal. a Black Revolutionary in White America has just been released in Germany. Schiffmann is still looking for a US publisher. He can be contacted via email: mikschiiff@t-online.de. His website is www.againstthecrimeofsilence.de.

*Hans Bennett is a Philadelphia-based photo-journalist who has been documenting the movement to free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners for over 5 years. For more, please see his website: www.insubordination.blogspot.com.*

# Mumia Update

## From Hans Bennett's “Mumia’s Best and Last Chance for a Trial” and “Is Honoring Mumia a Crime?”

On October 23 of 2006, Mumia Abu-Jamal’s attorney, Robert R. Bryan, filed the 4th “Step Reply Brief” with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Philadelphia. Bryan estimates that a public hearing should begin within three months, after which judges will decide whether or not to grant Abu-Jamal a new trial. At the same time, District Attorney Lynne Abraham is appealing the court’s overturning of Mumia’s death penalty. If she succeeds, a new execution date will be set.

Calling for a new trial, supporters around the world feel that the original one was tainted by racism, prosecutorial and judicial misconduct, coerced witnesses, suppressed evidence and a denial of Mumia’s constitutional right to represent himself. However, global support for Mumia now has a new enemy. Future Philadelphia mayoral candidate Peter J. Wirs has filed criminal charges against the French cities of Paris and St. Denis. Their crime? Paris declared Abu-Jamal an honorary citizen in 2003 and St. Denis named a major street after him. Calling him a “punk,” Wirs proclaims that “Abu-Jamal’s gratuitous exploitation of genuine international opposition to the death penalty should be exposed for the ‘snake-oil’ scam that it is.”

“Didier Paillard, the mayor of the St. Denis, declared: “Mumia’s struggle is a symbol for justice, the abolition of the death penalty, human rights & the resistance against a system which has the arrogance to reign over the world in the name of those same human rights that it tramples with complete impunity on its own soil.”

For the full articles, visit [www.defenestrator.org](http://www.defenestrator.org).



## Dead from Iraq War Approach One Million

According to a recently published study, as many as 654,000 Iraqis may have died as a result of the U.S.’ 2003 invasion. The study, carried out by Johns Hopkins’ Bloomberg School of Public Health and al Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad, surveys 1,849 households throughout Iraq and shows that the country’s mortality rate has increased by 143,000 deaths per year as compared to the mortality rate pre-invasion. 91.8 percent of the additional deaths are attributed to violence. The figures reaffirm a similar Johns Hopkins study carried out in 2004 and show an upward trend in mortality.

[http://www.jhsph.edu/publichealthnews/press\\_releases/2006/burnham\\_iraq\\_2006.html](http://www.jhsph.edu/publichealthnews/press_releases/2006/burnham_iraq_2006.html)

# A history of violence

## The war on terror and the resurgence of fascism in the Americas

by eian weissman

Violence seems to be a single constant of US relations with Latin America. Like coca cola and cockroaches it seems to trace our footsteps through the region. It wears many masks, has many names for itself, yet its motivations seems hidden.

La Violencia is a term used by some in Guatemala to describe the thirty-five year long civil war which claimed some 200,000 lives and displaced many more—circumstances that were mirrored by brutal counter-insurgency campaigns conducted in the other nations of the Americas during that same period. Today, this region is gripped by an epidemic of violence that seems to threaten the fragile peace that Central Americans have attempted to build over the last decade.

In Guatemala City, in the last four years alone, 1600 women have been brutally murdered. Many of the bodies demonstrated patterns of torture and rape consistent with the practices of the paramilitary death squads that operated in that nation during the civil war, although the Guatemalan government insists domestic abuse and criminal gangs are to blame. This seems like a great leap of intuition considering that the Office of the Prosecutor of Crimes Against Life of Guatemala City recently revealed that, “of the 2,400 cases it was handling, it was only investigating 40.”

In the introduction to the book Guatemala: Eternal Spring, Eternal Tyranny, Jean-Marie Simon wrote, of Guatemalan Government repression at the height of the “dirty war,” “Those responsible have covered up the truth with a barrage of rhetoric as predictable as the violence they have caused. According to the Guatemalan government, violence is caused by “communist subversives,” “common delinquents,” or “heat waves.” In 1984, Guatemala’s head of state defined violence as “a folkloric problem that began with Cain and Abel.” It seems little has changed.

A recent article by Thelma Mejia from the IPS news agency, Soaring Violent Crime Threatens Democracy, states ominously: “Soaring violent crime rates could jeopardise democracy in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras over the next few years if only strong-arm (‘mano dura’) tactics are used to fight crime and the deeper underlying causes of the violence are not addressed, experts warn.”

### The Condor Flies Again

While central America was in the grip of these anticommunist terror-regimes, the nations of the southern cone of South America, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, coordinated their counterintelligence operations under the flag of “Operation Condor”. Condor was a coordinated program of terror against leftists, or anyone vaguely suspected of being of leftist or sympathizing with them. These activities included countless extra-judicial murders and assassinations as well

as the disappearing of “subversives” which entailed torturing and murdering them and then removing all record that they ever existed. This operation was documented in part with the discovery on December 22nd of 1992 by a Paraguayan judge of the so called “terror archives”, detailing the fates of some 50,000 persons murdered, 30,000 “desaparecidos” and 400,000 incarcerated people.

The US appears to have materially supported operation Condor, as indicated by a declassified document obtained by the NY Times in 2001 instructing those involved in Condor to coordinate their activities using US intelligence installations in the region.

In his informative article entitled American Fascism Is on the Rise, Stan Goff – a veteran of multiple foreign conflicts, including Guatemala -- posits that “...The precursors of fascism -- militarization of culture, vigilantism, masculine fear of female power, xenophobia and economic destabilization -- are ascendant in America today.” It seems the black bird has taken flight again.

### Militarization

In Guatemala, the military has been mobilized, ostensibly under the leadership of the civilian police in hopes that their presence will dissuade would-be criminals. So far the move has not worked. This comes following a series of high profile raids conducted by the Guatemalan military recently on failed prison colonies which had been ceded to Guatemalan drug lords by the corrupt officials charged with overseeing them.

No doubt, these moves were in some way influenced by Donald Rumsfeld’s declaration at a major conference of this hemisphere’s defense ministers held near the end of 2004 in Quito Ecuador that “the complex challenges of this new era and the asymmetric threats we face require that all elements of state and society work together”. Rumsfeld urged that the nations present merge their police and military. This move towards martial law—a salient feature of all the Latin American terror regimes of the cold war—was noted by Human rights groups, who consider their separation as key to civilian oversight of the military. It is also worthy of consideration that in many central American nations, private security forces greatly outnumber civilian police and military ranks, constituting a large mercenary class.

On the home front of the war on terror, we have experienced similar patterns, with the Bush administration consolidating power in the executive branch, militarizing domestic police and increasingly militarizing the US-Mexican border. The recent passage of the “Military Commissions Act, essentially granting carte blanche to intelligence agencies to detain indefinitely terrorism suspects (as in Guatanamo Bay) is another stone in the wall of this prison (or should I say brig) that we are building for ourselves.

In central America and South America it is provocative to wear camouflage, indicative of the general experience amongst its inhabitants of the actual effects of living under military juntas.

Stan Goff is a veteran of the US Army Special Forces, with whom he fought in “...eight places designated “armed conflict areas,” where people who were brown and poor seemed to be the principle targets of these ‘special’ operations.”

In his various tours of duty, which included counter-insurgency campaigns in Guatemala and Haiti, Goff experienced first hand the reality and role of the US military in “Maintaining order” in various third-world nations. In his essay, American Fascism Is on the Rise, he quotes the southern poverty law center, the noted monitor the radical right wing, who claim that white supremacists have taken advantage of recruiting shortfalls to infiltrate the US military. Goff’s take on this fact is slightly different though. “I believe the case can be made that these young men joining the military, embodying a racial-purity version of military masculinity, are anything except ab-normal. They are hyper-normal.” Goff sees these young fascist foot soldiers as a natural offshoot of the increasingly militarized, misogynistic culture of the US. The appearance of fascist graffiti in Baghdad whispers of broader societal patterns. The writing is on the wall.

### Masculine American Man

As Phil Ochs once sang, *I am the masculine American man, I kill therefore I am.* Perhaps he and that cited Guatemalan head of state are onto something here. Violence is our folklore, our national creation myth. It is also a concrete reality.

Arno Gruen, a German social anthropologist, paraphrases Author and Journalist Jonathan Schell in his essay entitled The Need to Punish.

With advancements in social and civil rights in the US, Gruen writes, "...Schell notes that along with these transformations the politics of recent decades has become increasingly dominated by conservatives - to the point, I might add, that there is even a degree of acceptance of the murder of physicians who provide abortions... violence against these social innovations has surfaced.”

Goff quotes another author, R. W. Connell who wrote in a book, “Masculinities” (University of California Press, 1995):

"In gender terms, fascism was the naked reassertion of male supremacy in societies that had been moving toward equality for women. To accomplish this, fascism promoted new images of hegemonic masculinity, glorifying irrationality (“the triumph of the will”, thinking with “the blood”) and the unrestrained violence of the frontline soldier.” This is evident in popular culture at home and abroad...”

In her article Femicide in Latin America, A Tale of Two Cities, Kathy Lowe writes: "'Femicide' is the new word in Latin America. A new word for an old crisis. It refers to an epidemic of rapes and murders of women in the region that for years have gone unsolved

and unpunished. Violence and sexual abuse against women remain rife across Latin America. But they have reached horrific extremes in Guatemala City and in Mexico’s bleak, free trade town of Cuidad Juarez across the border from the US."

In the US, presently, we see a similar backlash with the recent proliferation of anti abortion legislation as in the attempts at a comprehensive abortion ban in South Dakota. As Arno Gruen wrote, “*Underpinning our “high” culture are our efforts to control the world, to possess, to dominate, and simultaneously to create mechanisms that allow us to deny and disguise our real motives.*”

### Politics of Fear: the New Cold War (on Terror)

In defining fascism, and its American variant, Goff quotes Columbia University’s contribution to Answers-dot-com section on “fascism”: *"The growth of democratic ideology and popular participation in politics in the 19th cent. was terrifying to some conservative elements in European society, and fascism grew out of the attempt to counter it by forming mass parties based largely on the middle classes and the petty bourgeoisie, exploiting their fear of political domination by the lower classes."*

In the case of the Americas, we have seen such reactions recently, as in the opposition by the moneyed classes of Venezuela against the election of the Populist Hugo Chavez, the reaction to the election of Evo Morales in Bolivia or Lula DaSilva in Brasil. Recently too, there has been a marked, violent backlash against the current administration in Chile for its attempts to prosecute for war crimes former officials of the Pinochet regime.

US policy towards Latin America seems to reflect this sort of disdain and fear of actual democracy. Philip Agee is a former CIA operative who left the agency in 1967 out of disgust with its Latin American policies. In his article The Nature of CIA Intervention in Venezuela, he outlines a few of the many interventions by US intelligence agencies and US troops in Latin America. Here, he describes a historic shift in the conduct of US foreign policy which has its roots in the US defeat in Vietnam and the ensuing Watergate scandal of the Nixon years.

“During the administration of Jimmy Carter (1977-1981) general agreement developed in the foreign policy establishment that the repressive dictatorships supported by the United States around the world (Philippines, Iran, the Southern Cone of South America, Central America, etc.) were not the best solutions to maintaining the long-term interests of the country. These interests fundamentally were free access to primary resources, labor, and worldwide markets especially those of the so-called Third World. This new concept favoring democracy over authoritarian regimes came to be known as the Democracy Project.”

While these organizations, such as the National Endowment for Democracy, are still alive and well, the US has apparently not entirely ruled out the use of force to leverage politics in the Americas. Interestingly enough, according to Democracy Now.org, the Bush administra-

tion has “... lifted a military training ban on eleven Latin American and Caribbean countries amid concerns over a string of recent victories by left-wing candidates in the hemisphere.”

Peter Maas confirmed suspicions of the US government’s courtship with violence when he wrote in May of 2005, in an article entitled *The Salvadorization of Iraq*. “*The counterinsurgency is increasingly being waged by former elite troops of Saddam Hussein’s army, with guidance from a U.S. adviser who in the 80’s commanded the Special Forces in El Salvador*”. Maas states further on:

*“The template for Iraq today is not Vietnam, with which it has often been compared, but El Salvador, where a right-wing government backed by the United States fought a leftist insurgency in a 12-year war beginning in 1980. The cost was high — more than 70,000 people were killed, most of them civilians, in a country with a population of just six million. Most of the killing and torturing was done by the army and the right-wing death squads affiliated with it.”*

Irregardless of whether it is a hot war or a cold war, the war on terror seems to be a clear continuation of these patterns, as GW Bush stated in a recent interview with a NY Times reporter.

*“ I believe the Democrats want to work together to win this aspect of the war on terror. I’m also looking forward to working with them to make sure that we institutionalize, to the extent possible, steps necessary to make sure future presidents are capable of waging this war. ”*

*"Because Iraq is a part of the war on terror. And it's - you know, I think back to Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower. I mean, Harry Truman began the Cold War and Eisenhower, obviously from a different party, continued it. And I would hope that would be the spirit that we're able to work together. "*

On the political front, the religious right is ascendant in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Columbia with the election of Alvaro Uribe as well as the dubious election of Felipe Calderon in Mexico’s recent presidential race.

The Jorge Rafael Videla, president of Argentina from 1976 through 1981 stated upon taking power, “a terrorist is not just someone with a gun or a bomb, but also someone who spreads ideas that are contrary to Western and Christian civilization.” During his presidency some 35,000 “subversives” were disappeared in Argentina by his regime.

Only a few years before that, ironically enough on September 11th 1973, Augusto Pinochet rose to power in a military coup in Chile, during the first few days of which thousands were tortured and disappeared. The list goes on and on and on...

Emanating from a central pole of power, perhaps these instances of violence indicate its decline. These are the death throes of a nation grasping at its fading hegemony. Perhaps violence is a folkloric problem, a perennial theme of our shared histories. Let us hope, for the sake of mankind, that the cries of our fellow Americans, and all victims of state terror herald empire’s end.

## Oaxaca

continued from page 7

shot or killed were anti-Ruiz rebels mostly APPO members or striking teachers as “gun battles.” In the NY Daily news for example they wrote of Brad Will’s murder : “Bradley Will, 36, of the East Village, was shot in the chest Friday during a gun battle at a street barricade in the ...”

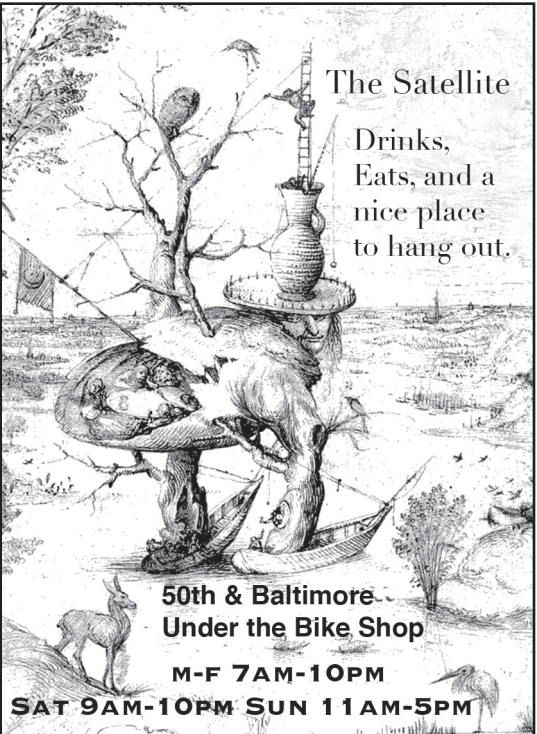
In all the street fighting throughout this uprising, there has been considerable restraint on the part of the APPO which has for the most part held to nonviolent strategies throughout its struggle. With Oaxaca’s history of guerilla struggle, the guns are there. But in every assault by police and PRI supporters, rebels have defended barricades using rocks, slingshots and Molotov cocktails. Probably a wise tactical move considering that Bush is only too ready to give Fox the go ahead to wipe out some “terrorists” in their back yard.

In the days following the 27th, President Fox ordered a full scale invasion of Oaxaca City by the PFP, a National guardesque police force, using Brad’s murder as a pretext to “preserve order.” For the next few days of the 5000 strong Robocop invasion of Oaxaca, rebels marched and alternately built, defended or abandoned barricades across the city, rarely staying long enough to lose energy on a losing fight. The PFP managed to regain control of the city’s main square, but in the meantime barricades filled other parts of the city and people were on the streets in the tens of thousands standing up to the police. An attempted attack on part of the PFP against the Autonomous University (legally Mexico’s Autonomous Universities are off limits to cops) home to the radio station which serves as the communication hub of the rebellion was successfully repelled by APPO supporters (check out a stream over the internet at radio.indymedia.org).

This uprising in Oaxaca, specifically its anti-politician direct democracy flavor didn’t come out of nowhere. Elements visible from this uprising have echoes throughout Mexico: The City

of Atenco’s insurgent population kicked out their own murderous government along with police and waged pitched battles against police in favor of self governance. Chiapas’ Zapatista Army of National Liberation took over large amounts of land and created self governing autonomous municipalities where traditional indigenous forms of direct democracy had a chance to flourish again. The Zapatistas took over and collectivized much of the economy and have generally improved their own lives greatly. Lately the Zapatista inspired Other Campaign (see “From Below and to the Left” by RJ Maccani in last issue) strategy to spread a grassroots democracy outside and beyond the influence of political parties has spread across Mexico and the World with notable adherents in Oaxaca’s APPO. The Zapatistas whose leadership is now on a tour with La Otra in the North of Mexico, responded to the repression in Oaxaca by calling for roadblocks which stopped trade and traffic across Chiapas and the rest of Mexico on November 1st, with a general strike called for November 20th.

It’s a crucial time to bring up Oaxaca here and in other places outside of Mexico. We should demonstrate some tangible solidarity for their struggles. Listening in to Radio Planton over the internet during the times when the fighting with the PFP is the thickest, people are calling in from across the world, from occupied embassies somewhere in Europe, from a road blockade thrown up in solidarity, along with the reports of actions in the states, all helping to fuel a hope for Oaxaca’s struggle for a better world. But what we can also learn from them is immense.



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# REBEL CALENDAR



**FRIDAY and SATURDAY DEC. 1&2**  
Puppet Uprising's 7th annual year end cabaret!  
& GIANT CHEAP ART BAZAAR  
7:30 pm at The Rotunda  
4012 Walnut St. West Philly

**Saturday December 2nd**  
Anti War art show at firehouse bikes, 50th and  
balltimore ave.

Movie: Bandit Queen  
7:30 PM, Saturday Night Movies @ the Wooden  
Shoe

**Friday December 7th**  
Art at LAVA. Monthly art opening every 2nd Friday.  
Food, music, and art. *Free*  
6-9:00 pm at the LAVA Space 4134 Lancaster Ave.

**Friday December 8th**  
Reading by Natalie Hopkinson and Natalie Y. Moore  
authors of *Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at  
Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation*. *Free*  
7:00 pm at Robin's Bookstore 108 S. 13th St.

Benefit art sale for Philly Stands Up at Kaffa Crossing  
4423 Chestnut Street

**Saturday, December 9th**

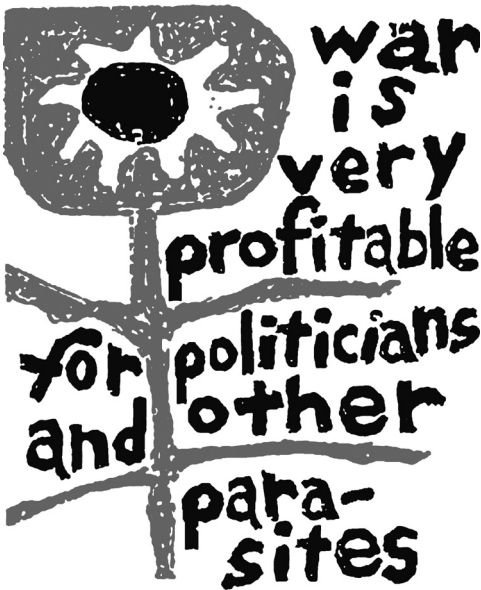
Marking the 25th year of Mumia's incarceration, and  
the 25th year of his RESISTANCE, right in the bowels  
of the Beast. What an example of resistance Mumia  
has provided. We, too, are part of that resistance!  
We will be gathering at 12 NOON, at PHILADEL-  
PHIA'S CITY HALL to  
march to the AFSC  
building on 15th Street  
and Cherry.

Anarchist Perspectives:  
Resisting the Green  
Scare!  
In response to the call for  
an International Day of  
Solidarity with Green  
Scare Indictees, Detain-  
ees, and  
Political Prisoners.  
3pm at the A-Space

**Sunday December 10th**  
benefit for the Liberty  
Center for Survivors of  
Torture -- Human Rights Day celebration -- at The  
Rotunda 4014 Walnut St

Wooden Shoe's birthday party spectacular!  
We will have activities throughout the day, including

a children's storytime, face painting, acoustic bands,  
food, birthday cake and a movie.  
All Day Long at The Wooden Shoe. Come celebrate  
our 30th birthday!



**Monday December 11th**  
nonviolent "docu-  
ment search" at the  
headquarters of the  
Pennsylvania Gaming  
Control Board Har-  
risburg headquarters  
on Dec. 11.

City of Philadelphia  
Mural Arts Program  
Annual Winter Exhibit  
featuring works cre-  
ated by youth from our  
Big Picture and Mural  
Corps Art Education  
programs  
3-6:30pm at the

Rotunda -- 4014 Walnut St

**Saturday December 16th**  
Kulwasi Balagoon memorial dinner. Readings by  
Walidah Imarisha and Dan Berger. *Free*

5- 8:00 pm at LAVA 4134 Lancaster Ave.  
  
Movie: The Corporation  
7:30 PM, Saturday Night Movies @ the Wooden  
Shoe

**Saturday, December 30**  
Movie: Style Wars  
7:30 PM, Saturday Night Movies @ the Wooden  
Shoe

**Saturday, January 13**  
Movie: In the Name of the Father  
7:30 PM, Saturday Night Movies @ the Wooden  
Shoe

**Saturday January 31st**  
Music by The Can Kickers and Mischief Brew.  
7:30pm at LAVA 4134 Lancaster Ave.

**March 9-11, 2007**  
10th Annual National Conference on Organized  
Resistance, held at American University in  
Washington, D.C

**April 28th**  
Visions in Feminism college park MD  
[www.visionsinfeminism.org](http://www.visionsinfeminism.org)

## ONGOING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

**Food Not Bombs**  
In a country hungry for war, that bombs countries  
hungry for food..  
Rain or shine: Servings areSundays at 5:00PM and  
Mondays at 7:00PM across from the Free Library  
on Vine Street between 19th and 20th Streets  
In West Philly : sharings happen every Wednesday  
@ 5pm-CEDAR PARK (50th and Baltimore)  
for more info, see

**Women's Anti-Violence Education (WAVE)**  
Monday drop-in classes every Monday night from  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Friend.s Center; 1501 Cherry  
Street Phone: 215-241- 5720 for more information

WAVE offers a drop-in, self-defense, class every  
Monday night. There is a sliding scale fee of \$5-  
\$20(pay what you can). Women of any age, size, or  
physical ability will benefit. Can't make it Monday?  
call about our full length self-defense courses  
offered regularly.

**ACT UP**  
Weekly Meeting Every Monday from 6:00 pm - 9:00  
pm St. Lukes Church; 330 S. 13th St. (between  
Pine & Spruce) Email: [actupphilly@ critpath.org](mailto:actupphilly@critpath.org) for  
more info.

**Weekly Meeting of Phila. County Coalition on  
Prison Health Care**

Every Tuesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Philadelphia  
FIGHT office, 1233 Locust St., 2nd floor, For info,  
contact Laura McTigh: 215-380-5556

**Books Through Bars**  
Packing Café Every Tuesday from 7:30 pm - 9:30  
pm The A Space; 4722 Baltimore Ave. E-mail:  
[info@booksthroughbars.org](mailto:info@booksthroughbars.org) for more info

**International Concerned Family & Friends of  
Mumia**  
Every Thursday from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm 4601  
Market St., 5th floor Phone: 215-476- 5416 for  
more info.

**Philadelphia Anti-War Forum**  
Meeting Third Sunday of every month from 1:00  
pm - 3:00 pm Aspace; 4722 Baltimore Ave and  
first Thurs. at Last Drop Coffee. E-mail: [clanarchy@prodigy.net](mailto:clanarchy@prodigy.net)

**INCITE! Radical Women of Color**  
Calling Radical Women of Color  
Philly INCITE! Starting in December Philly INCITE  
is meeting each 1st & 3rd  
Thursday from 6:30-7:45pm at the A-Space

**PRAWN** (Philadelphia Regional Anti-War  
Network)  
Meets 1st Tues. at Local 4, AFSCME, 1606  
Walnut.

## LIBERATED SPACES

**LAVA**  
The Lancaster Avenue Autonomous space is a center for  
radical media and organizing located at 4134 Lancaster  
Ave. in the Belmont Neighborhood of West Philly. info:  
215.387.6155 or [info@lavazone.org](mailto:info@lavazone.org) \* [lavazone.org](http://lavazone.org)

**A-Space** - a collectively run anarchist gallery and meet-  
ing/community space. Events are free and generally start  
at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted. Accessible by the 34  
trolley. Plenty of parking for cars and bikes. They pass the  
hat to cover rent.  
4722 Baltimore Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19143  
215.727.0882 [a-space@defenestrator.org](mailto:a-space@defenestrator.org)

**WOODEN SHOE BOOKS and RECORDS** - Anarchist  
bookstore owned and run by an unpaid collective of  
geniuses with nothing better to do than sit around talking  
philosophy and riots. Carries a wide range of anarchist and  
radical books, periodicals, pamphlets, T-shirts, patches,  
CD's records etc.

508 S. Fifth Street Philadelphia, PA  
215.413.0999 [woodenshoe@rocketmail.com](mailto:woodenshoe@rocketmail.com)

**Firehouse Bikes-** A worker owned collective bike shop.  
50th and Baltimore

**The Divine Bicycle Church** - Bike repair co-op at  
Neighborhood Bike Works. Tools,advice and recycled parts  
available. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from  
6:30-9pm  
40th and Locust Walk, behind St. Mary's Church

**Crossroads Women's Center-** open Tuesdays and  
Thursdays 10am-2pm or by appointment  
33 Maplewood Mall, Germantown 215-848-1120

**The Friends Center** - American Friends Service  
Committee HQ. Contains meeting spaces and offices for a  
gazillion different entities.  
1501 Cherry Street

the defenestrator  
PO Box 30922  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

to: